

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: HB 395

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: Environment – Ammonia Emissions from Animal Waste on Poultry Farms - Reporting

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill requires all poultry farms that produce \$1000 or more of poultry products or eggs each year to report ammonia emissions every 6 months.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: Oppose

A similar reporting requirement is already in place under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) that requires annual reporting of ammonia emissions from animal waste from large CAFOs (in this case 125,000 chickens or more). Later this month, new federal CAFO requirements will also become effective and Maryland MAFO/CAFO requirement will be in effect soon. To add a fourth reporting requirement will likely cause considerable confusion.

This bill would also greatly increase the reporting requirement by requiring reports twice per year rather than once, and greatly increase the number of facilities required to report, possibly by as much as four times.

For this information to be of any use, the Department would need to establish a database from the reports, do extensive quality control, and keypunch data from hundreds of facilities submitted under four different requirements.

The Department feels that we should fully utilize and understand the submissions under EPCRA, the State MAFO/CAFO requirements, and the

federal CAFO requirements before requiring additional reporting from a large number of smaller facilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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